Essential Services Maintenance Act. 1974 have been invoked on 29.10.1996 whereby the services of employees/doctors of the Central Government Hospitals have been declared as essential services to prohibit the strikes. This was done in the wake of the outbreak of Dengue when all hospitals had to function at peak capacity.

(c) to (e). A section of Group 'C' and 'D' employees of Safdarjung Hospital were on strike from 17th October, 1996 to 15th November 1996. The strike was called off on 16th November, 1996 following an Agreement with the hospital.

(f) and (g). A committee has been set up in the Ministry to take a view on the proposals of the Safdarjung Hospital inter-alia relating to the maintenance of the hospital premises/ward/OTs and staff grievances relating to residential accommodation and career prospects etc. which require the approval of the Ministry.

(h) The information is as under :

AIIMS	4
Safdarjung Hospital	3
Dr. R.M.L. Hospital	1
Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospital.	3

(i) There is well laid out procedure for tackling strike situation which is invariably adopted to avoid inconvenience to the patients and public.

(j) Does not arise.

Appointment of Religious Teachers in Army

1500. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether religious teachers are appointed for every unit of the army;

(b) if so, the number of JCO's Jawans for which religious teacher is appointed; and

(c) the number of sanctioned posts of such religious teachers, religion-wise, in the army as on April 1, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Religious Teachers namely Pandits, Granthis and Budhist Monks are authorised for Units/ Formations of the Army at the scale of one Religious Teacher for each class, provided the posted strength of Junior Commissioned Officers, Other Ranks (including Recruits and Trainees) of that class at the station is not less than 120. Padres (Roman Catholic or Protestant) and Maulvis are provided in Units/Formations for each class having not less than 120 Roman Catholic or Protestant Christians/Muslims (including Recruits and Trainees) at the station. Padres (Roman Catholic or Protestant) can also be provided separately for a class to which majority of the Christians belong.

2. A total of 1852 Religious Teachers are authorised in Indian Army as on April 1, 1996. The details religion-wise are as under :

(a)	Pandit (Hindu)	-	1568
(b)	Granthi (Sikh)	-	194
(c)	Maulvi (Muslim)	-	52
(d)	Padre (Christian)	-	27
(e)	Budhist Monk	-	11
	Total		1852

[Translation]

Capacity of Ships

1501. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shipment capacity is constantly declining in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the tonnage of goods transported by the vessels of the Shipping Corporation of India during 1995-96 as compared with 1994-95; and

(c) the profit earned during 1995-96 as compared with 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The volume of goods transported by the vessels of Shipping Corporation of India Limited during 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95 is as under :

Year	In Million Tonnes
1994-95	34.906
1995-96	45.262

(c) The net profit earned by Shipping Corporation of India during 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95 is as under :

1994-95	Rs. 201.39 crores
1995-96	Rs. 323.40 crores.

[English]

Strike in Safdarjung Hospital

1502. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Safdarjung Hospital Karamchari Sangharsh Union, New Delhi has submitted a memorandum against the rampant corruption in the hospital; and